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BOROUGH OF ALDEBURGH

A N N U A L R E P O R T .

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for 1939

BOROUGH OF ALDEBURGH

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1939

TO THE MAYOR ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE BOROUGH OF ALDEBUR

This is a brief interim report.

Population, 2,480, plus evacuees 685 = 3,165 (3,120 ration books were issued in 1939.

Number of Inhabited houses. On Rate book last year 875. New houses 11, total 886, less empties 21 = 865.

Rateable value, estimated April 1st 1939, £22,848.

Sum represented by Penny Rate £89.

General Rate 12/- in the pound, of which 10/- is for the County Council.

Live Births, Males 12, Females 16. Total 28.

No illegitimate births.

Rate per thousand population 11,28. Rate for England and Wales 15.

Stillbirths, one male. Rate .4. That for England and Wales .59.

Deaths, Males 17. Females 19. Total 36.

Crude rate 14.5, Comparative rate 11.6. That for England and Wales 12.1.

Infant Mortality. No deaths under one year of age.

Causes of Death. Senility 13, Heart 5, Apoplexy 4, Cancer 4, Brights disease 2, Violence 2, Pneumonia 1, Influenza 1, Phthisis 1, Other diseases 3.

Out of 36 deaths 26 were 65 uears of age or over. The average age of these being $77\frac{1}{2}$, the average age for all deaths was 6[illegible].4.

Nursing. The District Nurse visited 108cases making 3,439 ~~with~~ visits.

Maternity Work. Of the Aldeburgh mothers 10 selected their own homes, 17 the Cottage Hospital, for their confinement, 20 engaged a doctor and 7 a midwife only, a doctor having to be called in to one case.

43 mothers from the surrounding district, including 7 evacuees, also used the Hospital, 24 engaged a doctor and 19 a midwife, a doctor having to be called in to 10 of these cases.

Housing. 11 new houses were completed during the year, 7 of which were outside the sewer area.

Notified diseases. Pulmonary Tuberculosis, one female aged 18. She died in a Sanatorium in a very short time.

Pneumonia 2, Scarlet Fever 2, Chicken Pox 3. Puerperal Pyrexia 2.

The Borough Officials have had more than a strenuous time with Sea

Defence, National Registration, Food and Coal Control & preparati made for the reception of Evacuees.

685 Evacuees eventually arrived. They were collected at the Jubilee Hall where they were fed and inspected, and taken by guides to their billets. The W.V.S. opened a Canteen in the High Street where mothers and children were fed, amused, and even clothed, and perambulators were also provided. The displaced Infant Welfare Centre was able to function here. The difficulties of billeting were considerably increased by complaints of verminous and dirty children.

After a meeting of the neighbouring authorities arrangements were made for cases of Scabies to be sent to Felixstowe and Dunwich, and houses were taken for special cases to be looked after. The District Nurse, helped by Voluntary Nurses, was able to successfully cope with Pediculi Capitis.

The First Aid Post was eventually located at the Infant Welfare Room of the Cottage Hospital.

The efficiency of the Casualty Services was fully tested on September 10th and 24th., when on September 10th at 6 p.m. the lifeboat brought ashore 75 survivors from a tanker. These men were wet through and covered with oil. One man with a compound fracture of his leg was sent off at 6.40 in an

Ambulance to Ipswich Hospital. 16 cases went through the First Aid Post, 12 of these were duly treated and despatched in 3 Ambulances (1 having been lent by Leiston) to Ipswich Hospital, where it was not found necessary to touch a single bandage. The Captain was admitted to the Aldeburgh Hospital. The other 3 cases were treated as out-patients.

The First Aid Post was scrubbed and ready for action by 9.25. The remainder of the crew who were not injured, 57 in number, were taken to the Jubilee Hall where they were provided with clothes and hot drinks.

On September 24th, 10 cases were brought ashore and taken to the First Aid Post. After receiving treatment, 4 stretchers and one sitting case for X-ray were sent to Ipswich Hospital. One case was admitted to the Aldeburgh Hospital and 4 treated at out-patients.

I enclose the Report of Mr.P.R.Bradley, L.R.S.I.,M.S.I.A., the Borough Surveyor.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C.D.Somers, O.B.E M.A M.B., M.B.Ch.
(Cantab), M.R.S.I.

Borough Surveyor's Office,
Town Hall, Aldeburgh.
December, 1940.

Your Worship, Aldermen, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I trust that this very brief report on 1939 activities will meet with your approval. As will be remembered, air raid precautions and the equipment of the Auxiliary Fire Brigade took precedence over all other activities in my office. The First Aid Post was equipped and sandbagged. The Rescue Party was equipped with the gear necessary for its job. Lectures in anti-gas and incendiary bomb control were commenced.

The problem of coping with the continual flow of official A.R.P. Fire Brigade and Petroleum circulars and memoranda as also the answering of interminable questionaires and other war-time correspondence is a heavy task in a small municipal office where so many functions are in the hands of one official.

Your Sewerage and Waterworks systems have functioned satisfactorily during the year. The arrival of evacuees in the autumn of 1939 added to the costs of the public services and in particular that of scavenging of dry refuse. A system of salvaging waste paper and metals was put into effect as the

year closed.

On the subject of sea defence, considerable correspondence took place between the Borough Council, The East Suffolk Rivers Catchment Board and also the County Council but no works were carried out.

Your Obedient Servant,

P.R.Bradley,

Borough Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.